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ABSTRACT

This 756-entry bibliography was prompted by the Serrano decision of the California Supreme Court in August 1971. The items are drawn from the literature on public administration, law, education, and State and local government since 1965. Items are organized under "Inequality of Educational Opportunity," "Financing of Local Public Schools," "State Financing of Local Public Schools," "Federal Assistance in Financing Local Public Schools," and "Programs and Proposals for Financing Local Public Schools." This last section is further subdivided into Schools, Performance Contracting, Voucher System, and Value-Added Tax. An author/subject index is provided. (Author/WM)

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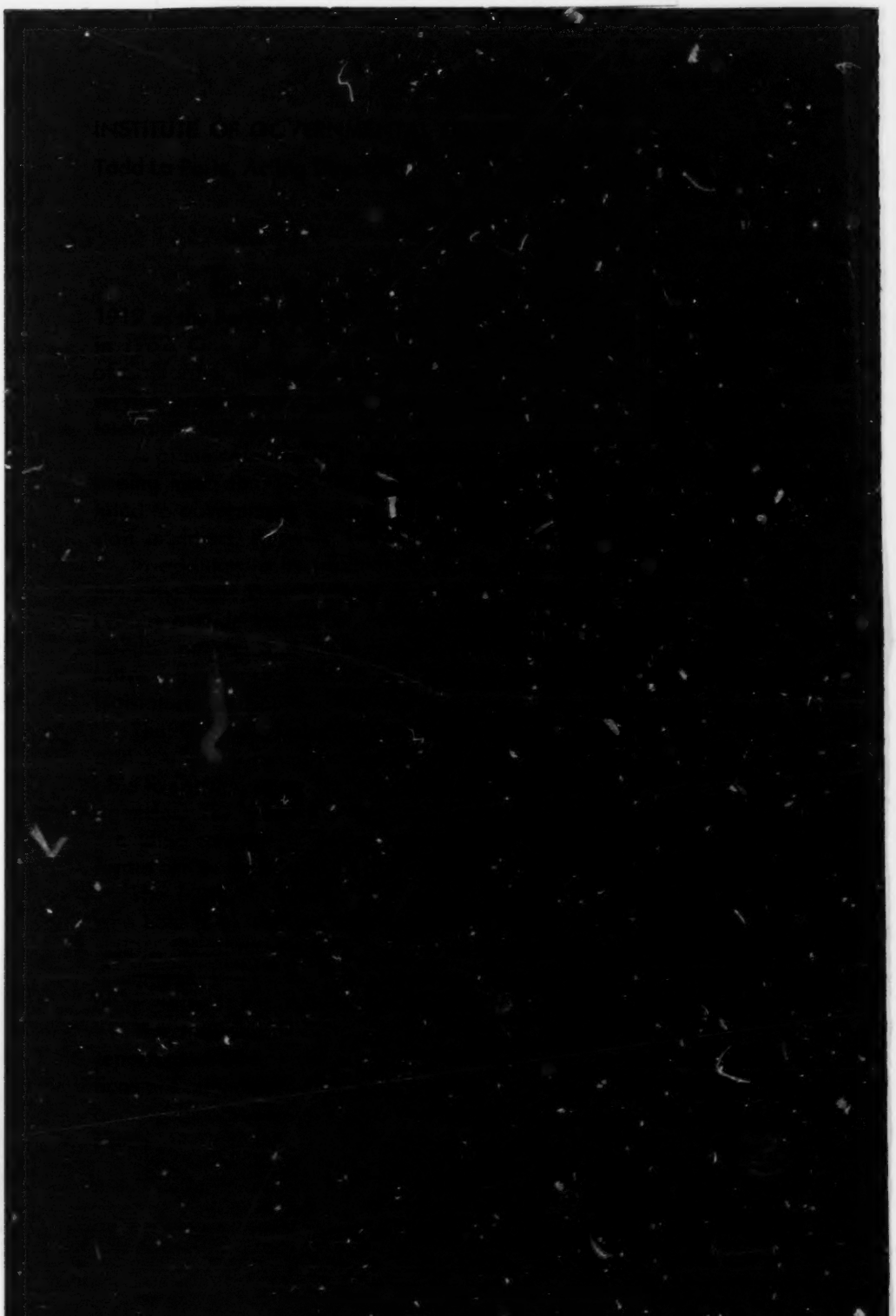

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Local Public Schools: How to Pay for Them?

Compiled by
DOROTHY CAMPBELL TOMPKINS

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PREFACE

The California Supreme Court decision last August, concerning public school financing, prompted the compilation of this bibliography. It covers materials in public administration, law, education, and state and local government since 1965. It is concerned with how to provide school money rather than how to spend it.

In the preparation of this bibliography, use has been made of the Libraries of the University of California, Berkeley, particularly the Education-Psychology, Graduate Social Science, Law School, and Institute of Governmental Studies Libraries.

To the many officials throughout the country who have provided me with materials, I make grateful acknowledgment. To my colleagues in the Institute of Governmental Studies for their assistance, to Judy Rasmussen for her part in preparing the manuscript for publication, and to John Barr Tompkins for his reading of the manuscript, I express my gratitude.

Dorothy C. Tompkins

July 1972

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INEQUALITY OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

"The distinctive and priceless function of education in our society, warrants, indeed compels, our treating it as a fundamental interest.... Education is essential in maintaining what several commentators have termed free enterprise democracy--that is, preserving an individual's opportunity to compete successfully in the economic marketplace, despite a disadvantaged background.... Education is universally relevant... public education continues over a lengthy period of life--between 10 and 13 years. Few other government services have such sustained, intensive contact with the recipient.... Education is unmatched in the extent to which it molds the personality of the youth of society.... Education is so important that the state has made it compulsory."

California. Supreme Court
Serrano v. Priest, no. L.A. 29820. 5 C. 3d 584
(August 30, 1971) 1

California school financing scheme flunks equal protection clause test. United States Law Week 40: 1033-34, 2128-29, September 14, 1971 2

On August 30, 1971, the California Supreme Court found that "the California public school financing system with its substantial dependence on local property taxes and resultant wide disparities in school revenue, violates the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.... Recognizing as we must that the right to an education in our public schools is a fundamental interest which cannot be conditioned on wealth, we can discern no compelling state purpose necessitating the present methods of financing.... Such a system cannot withstand constitutional challenge and must fall before the equal protection clause."

The Court modified its Serrano opinion on October 21, 1971, by pointing out that it did not constitute a final judgment on the merits and that the existing system of school finance is to remain in effect until it has been found unconstitutional and replaced by an appropriate new system (United States Law Week 40: 2339, December 7, 1971).

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FINANCING OF LOCAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Local public schools are financed mainly by local property taxes, and have been for many years. However, American education is not working well for millions of children, according to the President's Commission on School Finance. In addition to statewide funding of local education, the Commission recommended that the federal government provide funds ($4.6-7.8 billion) over five years to assist states to make the transition from local to statewide school financing, that school districts be permitted to use some local taxes to supplement state funds for schools, and that local school boards be given wide latitude to use resources provided by the state to best meet the local needs and demands.

U.S. President's Commission on School Finance
Progress report. 61p March 22, 1971 100

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Pt. 2, c. 5: Full state funding of elementary and secondary education;
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PROGRAMS AND PROPOSALS FOR
FINANCING LOCAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Performance Contracting

Under performance contracting, private industry--producers of teaching materials and electronic or computerized instruction machinery--go into the schools and, in return for a fee, attempt to raise the level of student achievement, particularly among the disadvantaged. If a contracting company fails to produce the level agreed upon with a local school board, it refunds part of the fee.

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